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Docket No. 520.43090X00

Serial No.10/651,998

Office Action dated January 10, 2008**APR 10 2008****REMARKS**

By the present Amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 16, and 17 have been amended. Claims 18-20 are newly presented for consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 14-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3 are independent.

I. Office Action Summary

In the Office Action of January 10, 2008, claims 1-17 (presumably 1-7 and 14-17) were objected to because of various informalities. Claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 1-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections and rejections under 35 USC §112, is noted with appreciation.

III. Objections to the Claims

Claims 1-17 were objected to because of various informalities. Regarding these objections, the Office Action cites various instances of language that appeared improper and/or lacked proper antecedent basis.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, and 4 based on the suggestions made in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of these objections is therefore respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

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matter regarded as the invention. Regarding claim 1, the Office Action identifies a passage that includes language considered to be indefinite or otherwise unclear.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have revised the cited passage to recite --a first redundant code used for hard-decision type data error correction, which are composed of plural code sequence blocks--. This amendment is believed to remedy the confusion identified in the Office Action. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 16 and 17, the Office Action indicates that the phrase "can be corrected" does not appear specific, and thereby renders the claims vague.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 16 and 17 in an effort to clarify the subject matter recited therein. Specifically, these claims now indicate that the number of code symbols of the code sequence block is equal to or less than the maximum number of error code signals that can be corrected by the first redundant code. Thus, it can be appreciated that the first redundant code is configured to correct a predetermined maximum number of error code symbols. Claims 16 and 17 therefore limit the code symbol length of the code sequence block to be equal to or less than this maximum number of error code symbols.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that, as amended, claims 16 and 17 satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 18-20 are newly presented, and depend from claim 5. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record.

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V. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

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AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.43090X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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